

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{ps}

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM FOR AT RISK CHILDREN

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for funding from the "After School Snack Program for At Risk Children."

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit the application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a reimbursement not to exceed \$74,105.40 in estimated program expenses; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities offers after school programs at 16 sites throughout the City. While these programs offer structured and supervised activities, the Department cannot enforce participation and attendance. Out of concern for the children's safety and security, the Department two years ago sought to license its after school programs. To date two sites, Mt. Vernon and Ramsay, are licensed. As a part of licensing standards, these sites are required to provide snacks for the participants. The Department has subsequently adjusted its annual operating budget and snacks are served daily at these sites. The provision of snacks was not a component of the Department's after school offering prior to licensing. Providing snacks to all after school sites is desirable. This grant will allow us that opportunity.

The Alexandria City Public Schools currently participates in an after school USDA National School Lunch Program snack program and snacks are served at Cora Kelly, Jefferson Houston, Maury, Mt. Vernon, Samuel Tucker and William Ramsay Elementary Schools. Only school-sponsored programs are eligible for this particular program, but we found that the Department is eligible for the After School Snack Program administered by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provides cash reimbursement to nonprofit entities for snacks served to children and youth who participate regularly in structured and supervised after school activities. The Campagna Kids Program has received reimbursements from this program for the past three

years for seven of its sites: Jefferson Houston, Lyles Crouch, Maury, Mt. Vernon, Patrick Henry, Samuel Tucker and William Ramsay Elementary Schools.

Regional USDA staff has indicated that a mid school year admission is possible, if a grant application is submitted by November 30, 2003. Staff will submit the grant application to USDA, contingent upon City Council's approval at its November 25 legislative meeting.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, will administer the program, at 13 eligible sites. These sites meet the criteria established by the Child and Adult Food Program of USDA, they are "located in a geographical area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduce priced school meals." Commencing January 12, 2004 through June 17, 2004, free snacks will be served to the participants at each site, Monday through Friday excluding school holidays and breaks. As with the USDA Summer Food Service Program, the Department will contract with the Alexandria City Public Schools Food Service Department to prepare and deliver snacks to the following after school sites:

AFTER SCHOOL SITES

NUMBER TO BE SERVED

1.	William Ramsay Recreation Center	185
2.	Cora Kelly Recreation Center	150
3.	Patrick Henry Recreation Center	140
4.	John Adams Elementary School	140
5.	Mt. Vernon Recreation Center	120
6.	Francis Hammond Middle School Power-Up Program	90
7.	Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center	85
8.	Charles Houston Recreation Center	75
9.	George Washington Middle School Power-Up Program	60
10.	Jefferson-Houston Elementary School	50
11.	Maury Elementary School	30
12.	Lee Center Therapeutic Program	20
13.	Chinquapin Center Therapeutic Program	<u>9</u>
Total		1,179

FISCAL IMPACT: In as much as the Department is seeking mid school year admissions, the City will not be able to request an advance payment. The snacks must be served free of charge in order to receive the .60 cents per meal reimbursement rate from USDA. There is no requirement for the City to provide either cash or an in-kind match for this program, however, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency (Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities), as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department. It should be noted that there are no additional monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the \$74,105.40 reimbursement is received.

The After School Snack Program for At Risk Children is an annually funded USDA program and the Department with City Council approval will submit a renewal application for future school years.

ATTACHMENTS: The grant application may be reviewed after November 30, 2003 in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Janet Barnett, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Deborah Brown Anderson, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

William Chesley, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Margaret Orlando, Recreation Supervisor IV, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities